

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N.E.W.S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES IMPROVEMENT IN PERCENT OF ARIZONA STUDENTS SCORING “BASIC” OR BETTER ON NAEP TEST

PHOENIX -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today announced improvement in Arizona students' performance on NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress). The 2007 scores for NAEP are being released this morning. The last reported test was 2005. Arizona students showed increases in the percentage of students scoring “basic” or above.

Comparing 2005 with 2007: In 4th grade reading, Arizona students showed an increase in performance from 52 - 56%; with Hispanics showing an increase from 37 - 42%. In 4th grade math, students showed an increase from 70 - 74%, with Hispanic students showing a 57 – 61% improvement. In 8th grade math, students showed improvement from 64 – 66%, with Hispanic students going from 48 – 52%. These numbers are consistent with long term trends. (Reading scores are available for 2002 and Math scores are available for 2003).

The longer term improvement: In 4th grade reading, Arizona students showed improvement from 51 – 56%, with Hispanic students improving from 32 – 42%. In 4th grade math, Arizona students showed an increase from 70 – 74%, with Hispanic students showing improvement from 56 – 61%. In 8th grade math, students showed an increase from 61 – 66%, with Hispanic students showing an increase of 45 – 52%.

In general, Arizona students perform better on the AIMS test because it tests the Arizona standards, which is what Arizona students are taught. NAEP, by contrast, tests its own “framework” which differs from Arizona standards. Consequently, Arizona students are taught material that is not tested on NAEP, and conversely, 42% of the 4th grade NAEP “framework” is not taught to Arizona students by the 4th grade. On the 8th grade NAEP test, 36% of the NAEP “framework” is not taught to Arizona students by the 8th grade.

Superintendent Tom Horne stated: “We inherited a set of Arizona standards that are not aligned to the NAEP framework. Because NAEP results are attracting more attention and the math standards are being revised this year, one of my goals will be to align the Arizona standards to the NAEP framework. The result will be that NAEP scores will increase and be more consistent with AIMS scores. In the meantime, the substantial increases in the percentage of students scoring “basic” or higher on the NAEP test are hopeful.”

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